

Examiner's Amendment

1. An Examiner's Amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

- (1) In Claim 1 Line 9, after "such that" and before "confluence", delete "the" and insert "a"
- (2) In Claim 1 Line 10, after "disposed in and before "outer", delete "the" and insert "an"
- (3) In Claim 1 Line 20, after "polymerization" insert "blending said product mixture with additional caprolactam followed by polymerizing the additional caprolactam to form a masterbatch and filtering the masterbatch in a melt through a filter,"
- (4) In Claim 1 Line 21, after "polymerized" and before ", determined" delete "product" and insert "masterbatch"
- (5) In Claim 1 Line 22, after "upstream of" and before "filter" delete "a" and insert "the"
- (6) In Claim 2 Line 1, before "claim" delete "A process as claimed in" and insert "The process of"

- (7) In Claim 4 Line 1, before "claim" delete "A process as claimed in" and insert "The process of"
- (8) In Claim 5 Line 1, before "polyamide" delete "A" and insert "The"
- (9) In Claim 5 Line 2, after "obtained by" delete "a process as claimed in claim 1 comprising:" and insert "the process of claim 1"
- (10) In Claim 5 delete Line 3
- (11) In Claim 5 Line 5, after "based on" and before "weight" delete "total the total" and insert "a total".
- (12) In Claim 8 Line 2, after "caprolactam" and before "a weight" delete "includes" and insert "has"
- (13) In Claim 10 Line 2, after "pigments" and before "added" delete "are" and insert "is".
- (14) In Claim 13 Line 1, after "polyamide" and before "claim" delete "as claimed in" and insert "of".

Art Unit: 1796

- (15) In Claim 14 Line 1, after “polyamide” and before “claim” delete “as claimed in” and insert “of”.
- (16) In Claim 15 Line 1, after “polyamide” and before “claim” delete “as claimed in” and insert “of”.
- (17) In Claim 16 Line 1, after “polyamide” and before “claim” delete “as claimed in” and insert “of”.
- (18) In Claim 17 Line 1, after “polyamide” and before “claim” delete “as claimed in” and insert “of”.
- (19) In Claim 17 Line 2, after “amount of” and before “is” delete “caprolactum” and insert “caprolactam”
- (20) In Claim 17 Line 3, after “amount of” and before “is” delete “dispersant” and insert “dispersing assistant”.
- (21) Cancel Claim 19
- (22) Cancel Claim 20

Art Unit: 1796

(23) Cancel Claim 21

2. Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given in a telephone interview with Burton Amernick on 7/29/2010.

Statement of reasons of Allowance

3. The present claims are allowable over the “closest” prior art Seeger et al and Wehr for the following reasons:

4. Seeger discloses an apparatus and process of dispersing or emulsifying liquids or granular substances. However, the reference does not disclose a process of dispersing or mixing a mixture of titanium dioxide, water, and caprolactam nor polymerizing the mixture to form a polyamide. Further, the reference does not disclose or suggest a process of forming a polyamide masterbatch containing titanium dioxide, filtering the masterbatch in a melt through a filter such that the average build-up pressure of the masterbatch downstream from the filter is about 7 bar/kg as required in all the present claims.

Wehr discloses a process of forming a polyamide containing titanium dioxide pigments from a mixture containing caprolactam, water, and titanium dioxide. However, the reference does not suggest or disclose dispersing the above mixture utilizing the dispersing apparatus recited in the present claims. Further, the reference does not disclose or suggest a process wherein the polymerized polyamide is further polymerized the additional caprolactam to form a masterbatch. Finally, the reference does not disclose or suggest a process where a polyamide masterbatch containing titanium dioxide pigment is filtered in a melt and has an average pressure build-up of about 7 kg/bar as required in the present claims.

Thus, given that Seeger does not disclose or suggest a process of dispersing water caprolactam, titanium dioxide, polymerizing the mixture to form a masterbatch, and filtering the masterbatch, and given that Wehr does not disclose a process of dispersing a mixture of water,

caprolactam, and titanium dioxide pigment, polymerizing the mixture to form a masterbatch composition, and filtering the masterbatch such that the pressure buildup is about 7 bar/kg, it is clear that either Seeger or Wehr, alone or in combination disclose or suggest the presently claimed process.

5. Upon reconsideration, in light of Applicants' arguments in the Amendment filed 2/1/2010 and as well as the disclosure on Pages 12-13 which disclose the average mean pressure build-up recited in claim 1 and the amounts of water, caprolactam and dispersing assistant recited in claim 17, the 35 U.S.C. 112 first paragraph rejections of record are withdrawn.

In light of the above, the present claims are passed to issue.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ALEXANDER C. KOLLIAS whose telephone number is

(571)270-3869. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM -5:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vasu Jagannathan can be reached on (571)-272-1119. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/A. C. K./
Examiner, Art Unit 1796

/Vasu Jagannathan/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1796